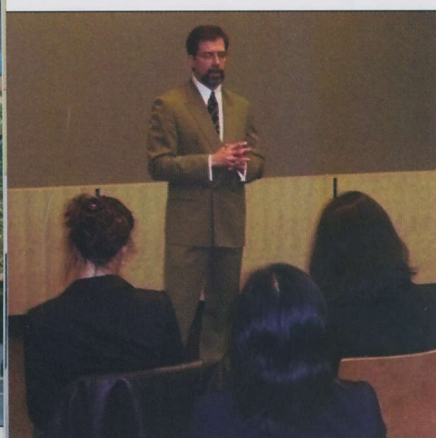


The WORLD Comes to DIA's Doorstep

By Laurie G. Streeter, DI

Imagine having an Iraqi-born physician research the state of black-market medicine in Baghdad, or a former Al-Jazeera correspondent report on the relationship between militant Islam and the media. Thirty-two DIA analysts have chosen to take advantage of such opportunities this spring. These analysts are serving as research advisers for the English for Heritage Language Speakers (EHLS) Program at Georgetown University and the University of Washington. The analysts' reward is not just a paper and a symposium presentation on their chosen topic, but research accomplished by scholars who



Jim Noone welcomes the Georgetown EHLS class during their Feb. 23 visit to the DIAC.

use native foreign language capabilities and offer a different worldview.

Jim Noone, chief of the new Directorate for Analysis Defense Intelligence Open Source Program Office (DI/DIOSPO), opened the door for this unique relationship between DIA and the universities. Intrigued by an unsolicited Georgetown invitation for free research conducted on behalf of DIA, he had his Military Infrastructure Office (MIO) staff meet with representatives from Georgetown while he was stationed in Qatar. Noone returned in time to attend the final symposium for research topic presentations at the close of the 2006 pilot EHLS Program.

"I was blown away by the quality of the presentations at the symposium," said Noone. "One student had a Ph.D. in physics from a Russian university,

but had been working as a carpenter's assistant in the U.S. because he lacked fluency in English. While at Georgetown he had conducted open source research in Russian and English and he proceeded to detail the unclassified evidence of the Iranian nuclear weapons program. His expertise in physics became quickly apparent when he masterfully handled a Q&A session. Another scholar was born in South Korea of Chinese and Japanese parents. He conducted his undergraduate studies in Paris — in French — and his master's degree in Italy in — Italian. His advanced degree is in economics and he's striving to make English his sixth fluent tongue. Some of the scholars had moved up a full point on the ELPT [English Language Proficiency Test] and the OPI [Oral Proficiency Interview] during the course of the program. Needless to say, I was impressed and we set out to integrate DIA into the research aspect of the program."

EHLS is a National Security Education Program that seeks to enable naturalized U.S. citizens to develop their English skills for professional careers in the federal government. DIA now fits into the picture through the research projects, which are a critical part of the program's curriculum. In late 2006, on the heels of the EHLS pilot program, DIA analysts submitted research proposals to Georgetown and the newly-participating University of Washington for the 2007 EHLS Program. The topics served in part to guide selection of participants in the program this year. The result is a symbiotic arrangement where the universities receive relevant topics for

their scholars to research and DIA encourages the schools to admit scholars that have academic, experiential and cultural strengths pertinent to U.S. security needs.

Between the two participating universities, the 2007 EHLS classes include scholars with Arabic, Chinese, Urdu, Dari, Russian and Korean language capabilities, along with a wide array of academic and experiential backgrounds. This year's classes have economists, authors, a medical doctor, a nurse, a microbiologist and professionals in many other areas.

The EHLS Georgetown University scholars visited the DIAC Feb. 23. Their busy day included welcomes from Noone and Eric Hammersen, DIA's senior language authority; meetings with their analyst research advisers; an excellent presentation from Maureen Davis, a Directorate for Human Capital (HC) recruitment officer; and a luncheon with DIA Foreign Language Dialogue Group representatives.

Through the luncheon, the relationship between the scholars and DIA extended into opportunities for foreign language enhancement. The Chinese Dialogue Group, for example, is planning to invite Chinese speaking members of the local Georgetown class to visit some of their weekly sessions. The scholars will spend five to 10 minutes discussing their project, in Chinese, then begin a dialogue with the DIA attendees. This

type of interaction will not only develop relationships and exercise the technical listening and speaking skills of the DIA group, but also infuse Chinese perspectives into our analytic thinking.

Photos by CPT Josh I. Cover, DI



As the intelligence community expands its focus to address national and combatant-level concerns across the globe, the EHLS Program is moving us toward a truer perspective in this bigger world view. After being sworn in as the new director of national intelligence, Mike McConnell stressed the importance of better using the richness of America's cultural and linguistic diversity in foreign intelligence analysis — the EHLS Program is a huge step in that direction. DIA's DI, HC and the security professionals in the Directorate for Mission Services (DA) are currently investigating other innovative methods for tapping into America's heritage language expertise. 🌐

The Georgetown University EHLS Class of 2007 during the official kick-off of the open source research project with DIA.

UPDATED Plan Reflects Agency EVOLUTION

By the Strategic Planning Group, CS

DIA and the defense intelligence community are in a period of extraordinary change. In the past couple of years, we have witnessed the passage of the Intelligence Reform and Terrorism

Prevention Act; the release and update of the White House National Security Strategy; the release of the Department of Defense National Defense Strategy and Quadrennial Defense Review (QDR); the